

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
CLAY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

A regular session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Board Room of the Central Administrative Office, 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN, 47834, on Thursday, April 11, 2024. Ryan Keller, Michael Shaw, Andrea Baysinger, Tom Reberger, Amy Burke Adams, and Cheryl Schopmeyer were present. Lynn Romas was absent.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board President Tom Reberger led those in attendance in the pledge, and Superintendent Rayle offered the prayer. A moment of silence was held for the passing of board member, Lynn Romas.

II. Comments from Patrons

None

III. Consent Agenda

A. Claims

B. Board Meetings

Regular Session: Thursday, March 14, 2024

C. Field Trips

CCHS Band to Kings Island in Cincinnati, OH on May 24, 2024. This is an out-of-state trip that required board approval.

NHS Girls Basketball team to attend D-1 Basketball Camp in Monticello, IN on June 26-28, 2024. This trip is an overnight stay that required board approval.

D. Personnel

A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1. Certified

a. FMLA	NHS	Shelly Minor
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2. Non-Certified

None

B. RETIREMENTS

1. Certified

a. Secondary Guidance Director (6/30/24)	NCMS	Greg Burns
b. Elementary Teacher (5/23/24)	SES	Nona Lancaster
c. Elementary Teacher (5/23/24)	CCE	Kathy Collins

2. Non-Certified

a. Food Services (5/23/24)	MES	Francis "Gerri" Wells
b. Food Services (5/23/24)	NCMS	Cris Eldridge
c. Guidance Secretary (6/30/24)	CCHS	Melinda Sue Booe

3. Place on Retirement Index

None

C. RESIGNATIONS

1. Certified

- a. Elementary Special Services Teacher (5/23/24) FPE Maranda Spraggins
- b. Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher (5/23/24) FPE Allison Prindiville
- c. Elementary 5th Grade Teacher (5/23/24) JTE Lillian Yocom

2. Non-Certified

- a. Custodian 185-day (3/11/24) NHS James Bush

3. ECA Resignations

- a. JV Volleyball (24-25 School Year) CCHS Kyndall Boyll

4. ECA Lay Coaches

- a. Varsity Volleyball Coach (24-25 School Year) CCHS Bradi Oberholtzer
- b. Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach (24-25 School Year) CCHS Jason Sindors

D. TRANSFERS

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

- a. Computer Technician (7/1/24) NCMS Sheri Yocom

E. EMPLOYMENT

1. Certified

- a. Elementary Teacher (24-25 School Year) SES Chelsea McCain

2. Non-Certified

- a. Behavior Interventionist (4/15/24) FPE Abigail Peters

3. Other

None

F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR

1. Extra-Curricular Certified

None

2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified

None

3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach

- a. JH Assistant Track Coach CCHS Melanie Laswell

4. Supplemental

None

G. CHANGES

1. Certified

None

2. Non-Certified

None

3. ECA-Lay Coaches

None

H. VOLUNTEERS

1. CLASSROOM

- a. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Kenzi Strain

b. Classroom (Volunteer)	CCE	Daniel Kreis
c. Classroom (Volunteer)	CCE	Ayanna Evans
d. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Erin Thompson
e. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Jessica Olah
f. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Brittney Hodge
g. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Daniel Wald
h. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Robert Webster
i. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Chasity Sinclair
j. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Emily Clarke
k. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Brenda Scott
l. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Terra Deakins
m. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Kara Syx
n. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Amber Kerr
o. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Christopher Ratliff
p. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE	Brooke Teague
q. Classroom (Volunteer)	SE	Christopher Kaufman
r. Classroom (Volunteer)	SE	Janna Short
s. Classroom (Volunteer)	SE	Rebecca Taken
t. Classroom (Volunteer)	VBE	Kelsey Batchelor
u. Classroom (Volunteer)	VBE	Josephine Crowe
v. Classroom (Volunteer)	VBE	Thomas Webster
w. Classroom (Volunteer)	VBE	Gregory Brunett
x. Classroom (Volunteer)	VBE	Christopher McVay
y. Classroom (Volunteer)	VBE	Tammy Kinter
z. Classroom (Volunteer)	CCHS	Trisha Shonk
aa. Classroom (Volunteer)	NCMS	Kristi Ison
bb. Classroom (Volunteer)	CCE/CCHS	Emily Myers
cc. Classroom (Volunteer)	CCE/CCHS	Erin Vitz
dd. Classroom (Volunteer)	CCE/CCHS	Bethany Stoelting
ee. Classroom (Volunteer)	FPE/VBE	Ashley Buchanan
ff. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE/NCMS	Stephanie Schopmeyer
gg. Classroom (Volunteer)	JTE/NCMS/NHS	Sarah Cox
 2. BAND	 None	
 3. ATHLETICS/ECA		
a. Baseball Assistant Coach (Vol)	CCHS	Hunter Adams
b. Baseball Assistant Coach (Vol)	CCHS	James Atkinson
c. Softball Assistant Coach (Vol)	CCHS	Whitney Jeffers
d. Baseball Assistant Coach (Vol)	CCHS	Brody Shaw
 I. TERMINATIONS		
a. Instructional Assistant (3/12/24)	FPE	Mary Landes
J. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY		
a. Supervisor of Transportation	Trans	Thomas Metz
 K. NON-RENEWAL		
1. CLASSIFIED	None	

2. ATHLETICS/ECA

None

Mrs. Baysinger moved to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

IV. Old Business

A. Student Handbook Changes – Second Reading

Information regarding the proposed changes to the student handbooks was presented at the March 14 regular session, and no changes were proposed during the first reading.

Mrs. Schopmeyer moved to approve the student handbook changes. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

V. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rayle noted the following:

- Welcomed the new hires.
- Thanked the Clay County Health Department for their donation of solar eclipse glasses to students and staff.
- Commended Meridian Elementary, Staunton Elementary, East Side Elementary, and Clay City Elementary for raising a generous amount for the Kids Heart Challenge.
- Congratulations to Heather Ogborn and Tony Migliorini for being named Golden Apple winners and Amanda Moore for being awarded the WTWO and First Farmers Bank & Trust's Teacher of the Month for March 2024.
- Shared condolences to the family for the passing of CCS Board member, Lynn Romas.

**VI. New Business
School Update**

Throughout the 2023-24 academic year, the Board will receive monthly updates from a designated school. Mrs. Bethany Jones, Principal at North Clay Middle School, shared the numerous activities, clubs, and athletic awards the school has achieved this school year. She commended the staff on their passion for the students at North Clay.

A. Title I Grant Application

Mr. Keller moved to approve the request to apply for the Title I federal grant program that provides funds for instruction and services to East Side, Forest Park, Meridian, and Van Buren for elementary and preschool students. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

B. School Nurse Liaison Grant Application

CCS Director of Health Services Amber Sindors requested to continue the partnership with the Clay County Health Department to provide a School Nurse Liaison. The School Nurse Liaison provides health education and assists nursing staff in all Clay Community Schools. Former CCS Head Nurse Lynn Stoelting served as the Clay County School

Nurse Liaison for the 2023-24 school year. The Nurse Liaison has a wealth of knowledge and has been an asset to CCS.

Mrs. Baysinger moved to approve Lynn Stoelting as the Clay County School Nurse Liaison. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 5-1 vote, with Mrs. Schopmeyer opposed.

C. Request to Move the May Board Meeting

It was requested to move the May 9 board meeting due to the annual IASBO meeting to May 16, however, due to conflicts with board member schedules, the date will be decided at a later time. Dr. Rayle will make the newspapers aware of the decided date.

D. Central Office Summer Hours

It was recommended to allow central office 260-day certified and classified employees to operate on a forty-hour, four-day work week beginning Monday, June 3, and continuing through Friday, July 19, 2024. The office would be open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and would be closed on Fridays.

Mr. Keller moved to approve the central office summer hours. Mrs. Schopmeyer seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

E. Request to Purchase Chromebooks

At the March 14, 2024 board meeting, Director of Technology Bill Milner requested permission to bid on 1400 Chromebooks. Bids were due on April 2, 2024, by 11:00 am at Central Office. Mr. Milner requested to approve Dell as the winning bidder. The Chromebooks will be received no later than July 1, 2024.

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the request to purchase Chromebooks. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

F. Request to Apply for a Digital Learning Coach Grant

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the request to apply for a digital learning coach grant. Mrs. Baysinger seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

G. Transportation Request for Single/Regular Routes

Information from Director of Extended Services, Aron Hammond, and Transportation Supervisor Tom Metz was provided to the board regarding the request to have all bus routes become single/regular routes. This adjustment was requested to create consistency and predictability for students, bus drivers, office staff, and teachers. It will also provide a concise message between home and school, while eliminating any miscommunication in transfers, changes or alternative routes and be especially helpful to the substitute drivers. If approved, transportation will be provided to and from a maximum of one (1) location: home and one other approved site with verified contact information on file. Parent/Guardian work locations would be prohibited. All stops must be within the boundaries of the school the student attends.

Mrs. Schopmeyer moved to approve the request to have single/regular routes. Mrs. Adams seconded. Under discussion, Mrs. Baysinger asked how this change would be

communicated to parents. Mr. Hammond said it would be posted on the corporation's website and communicated to parents during open houses at the beginning of the school year. Mrs. Adams wanted clarification on the purpose of this and that it was to streamline the bus routes for the safety of the children. Mr. Hammond answered yes, for consistency and safety. He shared a packet of information with the board before the meeting that included one anonymous child's bus schedule. The bus schedule showed the student going to a different location each afternoon and picked up from a different location. Mr. Keller questioned the policy regarding not allowing students to ride home with other students. In the packet Mr. Hammond provided, he gave examples from other school corporations that follow the same policy. Mr. Keller stated that this would not be accommodating to working parents or those who have emergencies that need their child(ren) to ride home with another student for the evening or certain days of the week due to work schedules and those parents not being home to get the kids off the bus. Mr. Hammond referenced back to the Hendricks County policy and noted that the policy reads that a student can get off the bus with another student if they are on the assigned or usual bus route with parent permission. Mr. Keller questioned that if the student was riding a different bus other than their regularly assigned route, it would not be allowed. Mr. Hammond answered, no, he didn't believe it would be allowed, but it could be addressed on a case-by-case basis. He said he still wants to accommodate and provide excellent customer service and it could be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Keller believes this is his only issue with the change. He doesn't want the policy to be so rigid that parents have no way to get their kids or kids going home by themselves. Mrs. Baysinger mentioned to Mr. Hammond that she assumed he surveyed the principals to get information from them to see how this would impact their parents and different situations. She stated she works in a very black-and-white business, and believes there shouldn't be a policy if you're going to keep making exceptions to the rule. She understands that there will need to be exceptions made, so there needs to be a compromise to the policy that will meet the needs of the students and keep them safe. She believes if we say they aren't allowed to ride with another student, they shouldn't be allowed to ride with other students. Mr. Hammond said he works with the principals a lot with transportation and they all work well together. He believes they could dig a little deeper and clarify the policy better. Mrs. Adams asked how many students are transported every day in the corporation; Mr. Hammond replied approximately 3,000. Referring back to the anonymous child's schedule provided by Mr. Hammond, she states it says pick up at moms, drop off at dads, the next day pick up at dads, drop off at moms, that's one out of 3,000 students. She can see the desire to want to streamline the routes and create consistency. Mr. Metz, Transportation Supervisor, stated, for example, they saved the entire month of February at the office in a box, 60% of the cards received were special circumstances. This is a total of 559 times students were being delivered to different places. Jenny McKinney, Transportation Supervisor mentioned in regards to the daycare situation, if you have a child that needs to go somewhere else other than home, the babysitter could be the consistent nighttime drop-off. Mrs. Schopmeyer asked if there was room on the buses to accommodate the other students riding the unassigned bus. She believes they could be overcrowding the bus which could be another safety issue. Mr. Hammond said through bus route consolidation because of a lack of substitute drivers, most buses are at capacity. Mrs. Adams said this change has been a long time coming and this change has been needed for a while. Dr. Rayle asked Mr. Keller if his question was answered; he said it

did. He said he would be supportive of streamlining the policy because of the complex schedules, but feels the other occurrences and flexibility need to be taken into consideration.

Mr. Reberger felt the need to table the item until next month for further research. He feels there needs to be flexibility, but it needs to be defined. Mrs. Schopmeyer chose to rescind her original motion for approval and moved to table for further review. Mrs. Baysinger seconded, and the members agreed.

H. Eclipse Day Waiver

Due to the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, and the possible problems associated with the event, the school district was shut down at 11:00 am and employees were sent home. It was recommended that the board waive the time missed on April 8 by the employee groups that were not required to complete professional development. This includes maintenance, custodial, transportation office, technology, and central office staff.

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the Eclipse Day waiver. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

I. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Due to the CCS calendar revision adding Martin Luther King Jr. Day to the school calendar, the Human Resources Director proposed that all 260-day employees be given the day off in observance of the federal holiday (along with all of the other students and staff).

Mrs. Baysinger moved to approve the revision. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

J. Neola Teacher Appreciation Grant Policy Update – First Reading

Information regarding the proposed update to the Neola policy was included in the board packet. This was a first reading, so no vote was necessary. The policy will be brought back for a second reading and approval in May.

K. Permission to Donate Clay City High School Scoreboards

Mrs. Schopmeyer moved to approve the donation of the old scoreboards to the Clay City youth baseball and softball leagues. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

L. Permission to Accept the Donation to Update the NHS Girl's Locker Room

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the request to accept a donation of labor and materials from the Peterson Company to update the girls' basketball/volleyball locker room. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

VII. Board Member Comments

Cheryl Schopmeyer thanked Mrs. Jones for her presentation and spoke of the AI conference she attended with Mr. Scott. She learned that she shared her concerns about AI with others who attended the event. She mentioned that the presenter had a

hard time answering some of the questions and they didn't understand the outcome of using AI and it was very concerning.

Amy Burke Adams welcomed the new hires and thanked Mr. Milner for his efforts with the Chromebook bids. She understands the reasoning behind the transportation request but would like to look into it further. She also thanked Mrs. Jones for her wonderful presentation.

Andrea Baysinger stated the bus garage on Depot Street looks much better and thanked Mrs. Jones for her presentation. She sends her condolences to the Romas family and noted that Lynn will be greatly missed.

Michael Shaw shared that it is easy to be on the board because the staff are superstars and problem solvers. He believes with a little bit of flexibility in the transportation change it could work. He thanked Mrs. Jones for her dedication to her staff and students and always hears wonderful things about her.

Ryan Keller agreed with all that was said and thanked Mrs. Jones for her dedication and presentation. He shared that Lynn was a good man and he will be missed.

Tom Reberger shared that one of the most difficult tasks as a board member has come about recently and he wants to be sure that the process of filling Lynn's vacant seat on the board is done with dignity and correctly. He shared that he has met with Dr. Rayle and they contacted the legal counsel at the Indiana School Board Association to get their statutes and their interpretation of the statutes. They then contacted the school corporation's legal counsel, Michelle Cooper, to elaborate on the same questions asked to ISBA to make sure they follow the correct procedures. They received email conformation from Lisa Tanselle, ISBA, and Michelle Cooper and they are both very consistent in their process to fill the vacant seat. The County Clerk was contacted to share what is needed from them also. The school board will meet in Executive Session on Monday, April 15, to discuss two topics. The meeting was already scheduled to discuss the annual board member training and the second topic that was added later will be to discuss what legal counsel has advised the board to do and to meet with Dr. Brad Balch from ISU who has experience with this situation. Mr. Reberger expressed the desire for transparency and accuracy throughout this process. Following the Executive Session, they will establish the procedure for filling the position based on board policies and state guidelines. He noted that the public would be made aware of the procedures, what the responsibility is of the general public, and who is interested in applying. The appropriate meetings will be posted whether it be one meeting or multiple. Mr. Reberger emphasized that since the position is an at-large position, candidates must be a resident of Clay Community Schools and fits the legal requirements of age, etc. This must be completed within the next 30 days to be compliant. More information will be provided to the press after the board meets on Monday night.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

None

IX. Adjournment

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

The meeting was audio recorded, and copies may be requested by contacting the Central Administration Office.